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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This **Final** Office Action is in response to Applicant's Amendment filed May 8, 2006. Applicant's amendment amended Claims 35-36 and 38-45 and canceled claims 1-34 and 37. Currently Claims 35-36 and 38-45 are pending.

Response to Amendment

2. The U.S.C. 112(2) rejection of Claim 35 is withdrawn in response to Applicant's amendment to the claim.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed May 8, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Specifically Applicant's argue that the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest either singly or in combination a workforce management system and method connected to a plurality of *mobile telephones* (Last Paragraph, Page 11) wherein the system/method automatically sends schedule/recruiting information to the mobile telephones which do not need to access the system (server) to see the schedule and/or recruiting information (Paragraph 3, Page 12; i.e. no special operation is required to access the system; "users do not have to log onto a management apparatus server to access such information"; Paragraph 4, Page 12; Paragraph 6, Page 13).

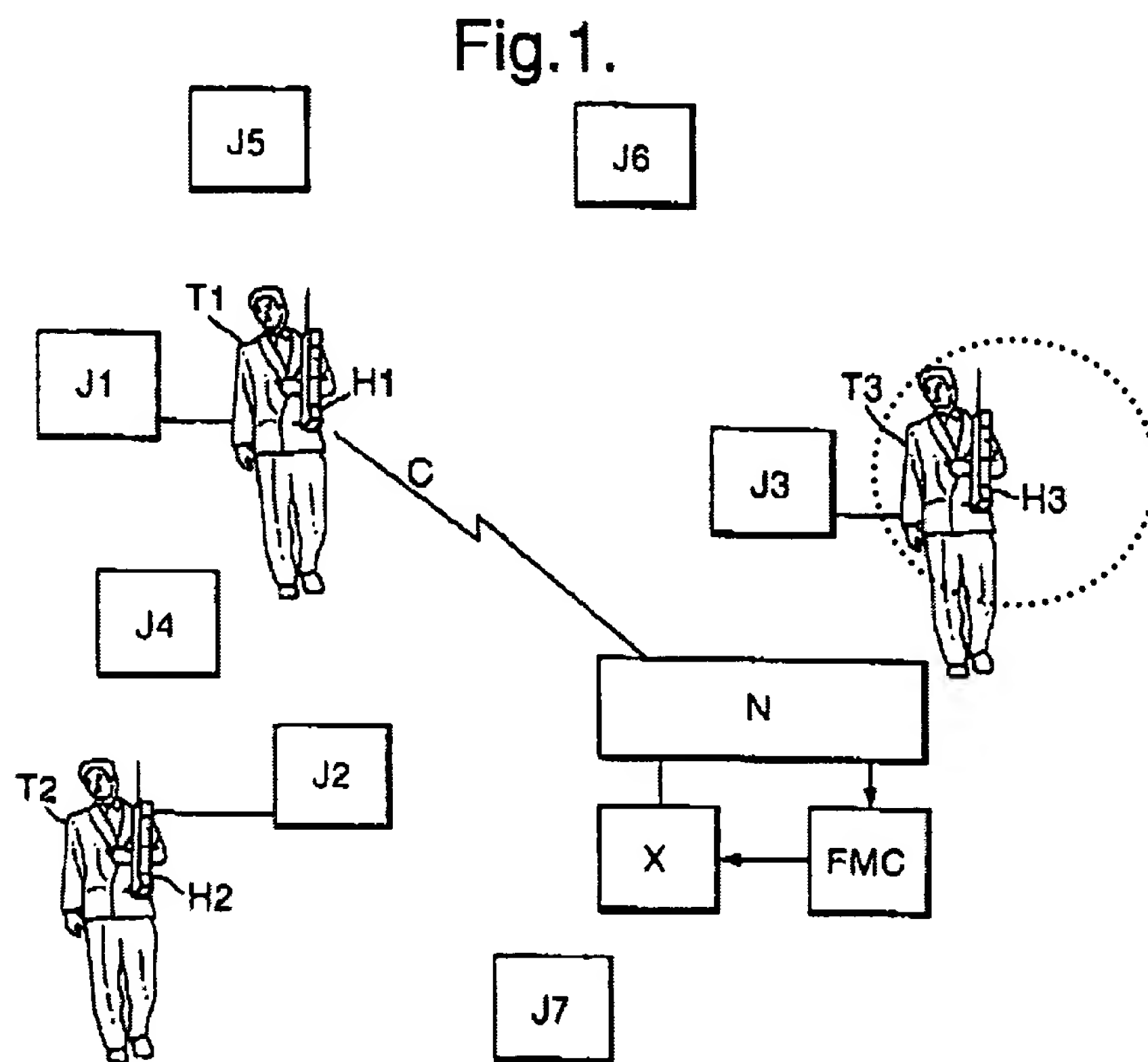
Regarding Applicant's argument that the prior art of record, specifically Bernasconi and/or Lesaint et al., does not teach *automatically sending*/distributing scheduling and recruiting information to a wireless devices such that the devices do not require a special operation to see/access the information the examiner respectfully disagrees.

Bernasconi teaches a work management system and method wherein a plurality of schedule and recruiting information is distributed to a plurality of wireless devices wherein the system/method utilizes well-known push technologies such as email, pagers and the like (Abstract; Paragraphs 0020, 0023, 0052). Further it is well known that such wireless devices commonly do not require a special operation (e.g. user logon) to view the information/message received/sent/distributed to the device (e.g. users of pagers receive messages/notification/information directly to the pager without requiring any special operation on the part of the user to receive/access the information).

Further Bernasconi teaches that the system "**may** be protected and delimited by utilizing logon (password) codes and pre-programmed levels of access" (Paragraph 0015, emphasis added) not that the work management system and method requires users to logon.

Lesaint et al., for example, teaches a workforce management system and method wherein a plurality of mobile users interact with the system over a

telecommunications network link, which is not specifically limited to a wired or wireless link, via a plurality of wireless handheld devices (Figure 1, Elements H1-H3; Column 7, Lines 34-41) wherein the figure depicts the being devices greatly similar to mobile telephones (as shown below, note the antenna on the top of the handheld device as well as the devices slightly curved form).



Further it is noted that enabling mobile telephones to interact with one or more remote systems (e.g. interactive voice response systems) as well as providing mobile telephones with Internet browsers (e.g. Wireless Application Protocol) so they may access and/or interact with web-based systems is old and very well known as supported by at least the following references:

- Dean et al., as previously cited, U.S. Patent No. 6,167,379 (Column 2, Lines 5-41; Column 4, Lines 14-47; Column 6, Lines 49-60; Figures 2-3);
- BellSouth Delivers the Internet to Wireless Phones; Customer Trial of Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) based services begins (1999; Abstract; Paragraphs 4-6, Page 1); and
- Richman, Dan, Microsoft Builds More Muscle in Wireless Internet (1999; Abstract; Last Paragraph, Page 1).

Further that the mobile device was a mobile telephone, wireless personal digital assistance, two-way pager or any other apparatus equipped with an Internet browser are obvious equivalents and/or variants of one another directly substitutable.

Further it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies to show that the prior art fails to show certain features of applicant's invention (i.e., Claims 35-36 and 42-44 do not recite the limitation that information is *automatically sent* nor do any of the Claims recite that no special operation is required to access the system/server or that the mobile phones are phones that can read web pages; Last Paragraph, Page 11; Paragraphs 2-4, Page 12) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Further it is noted that while Bernasconi and Lesaint et al. do not expressly recite all of the common and well known forms that wireless devices can take, specifically that the mobile/wireless device/terminal is limited to mobile telephones, as now claimed, these differences are only found in the non-functional descriptive material and are not functionally involved in the steps recited nor do they alter the recited structural elements. The recited method steps would be performed the same regardless of the specific type (brand, size, telephone vs. personal digital assistant vs. pager, etc.) of wireless device used to access/interact with the scheduling system. Further, the structural elements remain the same regardless of the specific type of wireless device used to access/interact with the scheduling system. Thus, this descriptive material will not distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability, see *In re Gulack*, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994); MPEP 2106.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 35 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bernasconi, Charles, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0114195.

Regarding Claim 35 Bernasconi teaches an Internet-based system and method for the urgent (time-sensitive, critical, etc.) scheduling (hiring, assigning, dispatching, etc.) of employees (substitutes, temp-to-hire, etc.) to fill shortages (vacancies, absences, job openings/positions, etc.) in settled (predefined, existing, etc.) schedules (work shift plans, rosters, etc.) wherein a plurality of portable terminals ("wireless browser devices", Abstract) connected over a network to the system (server, ASP, etc.) enable a plurality of users to create, view, edit/update, distribute (push, email, pager, etc.) and respond to job openings (absences; Paragraphs 0019-022) as well as manage a plurality of management and employee information stored in the system/method's database (Abstract; Paragraphs 0013, 0020-0022, 0044 and 0047; Figure 1).

More specifically Bernasconi teaches a work management system in which a management apparatus (system, device, component, program, etc.) is connected to a plurality of portable terminals (computers, PDAs, phones, devices, etc.; "wireless browser devices", Abstract) wherein the management apparatus comprises:

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- a sending subsystem (unit, code, program, device, etc.; a settled shift table sending unit; ASP, web server sending/publishing web pages; email/pager notifications; Paragraphs 0015, 0020, 0034-35, 0052; Figure 1, Elements 100, 110 and 140) which distributes (sends, forwards, displays, presents, etc.) a settled (agreed to, final, complete, established, etc.) employee shift schedule ("specified school/work site locations for specific absent employees/job openings", Abstract; time/work schedule, workshift, shift table, etc.) to portable terminals (wireless browser devices);

- a generation subsystem (recruiting information sending unit) which generates additional recruiting information (e.g. list of employees to contact, skills required, work site location, etc.) when work schedule (shift) cancellation request/information is sent from a portable terminal ("The option to enter a new absence is represented at 60. At point 60, the absent teacher's 50 screen defaults to the "New Absence" option. The reporting of an absence may be accomplished with as few as 3 clicks of the mouse... If that information is correct, the absent teacher simply clicks on the Submit Absence command button and the absence information is confirmed and then distributed immediately to all available and qualified substitutes.", Paragraph 0044; Paragraphs 0019-0020, 0044 and 0046; Figure 1, Element 60);

- a sending subsystem (recruiting information sending unit; "web server", "Internet pages", etc.; Paragraphs 0034 and 0044; Figure 1, Element 140) which sends the additional recruiting information to the portable terminals that are specified (identified) as urgent ("selected", "pre-qualified", "appropriate"; vital, imperative, critical, short-term, etc.) recruiting destinations (employees, temps, temp agencies, etc.; "The

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present invention uses the "distributed technology" of the Internet to immediately make that absence and other information available to all appropriate personnel.", Paragraph 0023; Paragraphs 0029 and 0051-0052);

- a reception subsystem (application information reception unit) which receives application information (job opening/assigning acceptance, rejection, etc.) sent from arbitrary portable terminals in response to the additional recruiting information ("Substitute teacher 10 may preview details and select open job/s at option 20. They can mark the particular job, review details, click the Submit Request key and then confirm their choice/s. The ASP database system 100 automatically posts the assignment. The system immediately returns a confirmation number to the substitute and removes the job from the available jobs list.", Paragraph 0047; Abstract; Paragraphs 0020, 0024 and 0047; Figure 1, Element 100); and

- wherein the portable terminals (wireless browser devices, distributed technology; laptop, phone, personal digital assistant, handheld, kiosk, etc.) further comprise:

- a reception subsystem (modem, wireless transceiver, etc.) which receives the settled (confirmed, accepted, etc.) shift schedule (job opening, work assignment, shift table, workshift, schedule, etc.) and additional recruiting information (work site location, directions, lesson plans, etc.) from the management apparatus (Abstract; Paragraphs 0019, 0044-0046; Figure 1, Elements 10, 50 and 250); and

- a sending subsystem (wireless browser device) which sends work schedule/shift cancellation request/information and application information to the management apparatus (Abstract; Paragraphs 0019, 0044-0046).

Bernasconi further teaches that the work management system utilizes well-known push (vs. pull) technologies such as emails, pagers and the like (such devices typically not requiring a special operation to view the information/message received/sent/distributed; Abstract; Paragraphs 0020, 0023, 0052) to automatically send/distribute schedule information to a plurality of users and that they system may or may not require users to log onto it (Paragraph 0015).

While Bernasconi teaches a work management system and method for automatically distributing scheduling and/or recruiting information and interacting with a plurality of wireless devices (mobile users), via well known push technologies such as pagers, e-mail and the like (distributed technology, "wireless browser devices" Abstract; Paragraphs 0020, 0023) Bernasconi does not expressly teach that the wireless devices are *mobile telephones* as now claimed.

Official notice is taken that utilizing mobile telephones to access remote systems and/or to enable mobile telephones with Internet browsers, so as to enable users to access one or more systems is old and very well known such wireless devices providing a mechanism for users to access the system from nearly anywhere and nearly anytime.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the work management system and method, with its ability to distribute schedule information to a plurality wireless devices via well known push technologies/methods such as e-mail and pagers as well as its ability to interactively schedule a mobile/remote workforce wirelessly, as taught by Bernasconi would have benefited from enabling users to interact with the system via any of a plurality of well known equivalent wireless devices including mobile telephones in view of the teachings of official notice; the resultant system/method producing what one would expect the ability for users to use any wireless browser enabled device to access and/or interact with the scheduling/work management system nearly anytime/anywhere.

Further it is noted that while Bernasconi does not does not expressly recite all of the common and well known forms that wireless devices can take, specifically that the mobile/wireless device/terminal is limited to a mobile telephone, these differences are only found in the non-functional descriptive material and are not functionally involved in the steps recited nor do they alter the recited structural elements. The recited method steps would be performed the same regardless of the specific type (brand, size, telephone vs. personal digital assistant vs. pager, etc.) of wireless device used to access/interact with the scheduling system. Further, the structural elements remain the same regardless of the specific type of wireless device used to access/interact with the scheduling system. Thus, this descriptive material will not distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability, see *In re Gulack*, 703 F.2d 1381,

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1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed. Cir. 1983); In re Lowry, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994); MPEP 2106.

6. Claim 36 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bernasconi, Charles, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0114195 as applied to claim 35 above and further in view of API's ActiveStaffer system/method as evidenced by at least the following Automating Peripherals Launches ActiveStaffer (1999).

Regarding Claim 36 Bernasconi teaches a work management system comprising a management apparatus connected to a plurality of portable terminals; the management apparatus comprising:

- a generation subsystem (recruiting information generation unit, server) that sets a number of employees (personnel, workers, staff, etc.) to be recruited (e.g. "recruit" one or more substitute/temp for each of the job openings/positions/shifts) and an additional recruiting period ("A certain time period, set by the school district/agency, allows the requested person/s to respond. (This notification of possible substitutes and temporary employees will be explained in depth later.) At the expiration of that time period, the job is then opened for other qualified substitutes or temporaries to select. Once a particular assignment has been filled, it is removed from the open jobs list.", Paragraph 0020) to generate additional recruiting information (job location, required skill sets, et.) when staff vacancies in a settled (predetermined) shift schedule (job assignment, table, workshift, etc.) are above a predetermined number of

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employees/vacancies (i.e. greater than zero, wherein the system “recruits” temps/substitutes once there is at least one absence/vacancy entered; Paragraphs 0020-022, 0047 and 0052; Figure 1, Element 100);

- a sending subsystem (recruiting information sending unit; web server, Internet pages, email, e-page, etc.; Figure 1, Elements 100 and 140) which sends the additional recruiting information to the portable terminals of employees who can apply to fill the vacancies (Abstract; Paragraphs 0020-022, 0047 and 0052);

- an reception subsystem (application information reception unit; server) which receives application information sent from arbitrary portable terminals in response to the additional recruiting information (acceptance, rejection, etc.; Abstract; Paragraphs 0020-0021, 0024 and 0047; Figure 1, Element 100);

- a processing unit (recruiting processing unit) which that enables a person in charge to view/review unfilled job openings and execute an urgent-shift making routine (script, process, steps, method, code, program, etc.) when the number of applications received does not reach the number of employees to be recruited (“manual dispatch”, “holdover”, “over-ride”; Paragraphs 0022 and 0054; Figure 1; Elements 180 and 200); and

- wherein the portable terminals comprise:

- a reception subsystem which receives additional recruiting information from the management apparatus (Abstract; Paragraphs 0019, 0044-0046; Figure 1, Elements 10, 50 and 250); and

- a sending subsystem which sends application information to the management apparatus (Abstract; Paragraphs 0019, 0044-0046).

While Bernasconi teaches a work management system and method that automatically distributes schedule/recruiting information and interacts with a plurality of wireless devices, via well known push technologies such as pagers, e-mail and the like (distributed technology, "wireless browser devices" Abstract; Paragraphs 0020, 0023) Bernasconi does not expressly teach that the wireless devices are *mobile telephones* as now claimed.

Official notice is taken that utilizing mobile telephones to access remote systems and/or to enable mobile telephones with Internet browsers, so as to enable users to access one or more systems is old and very well known such wireless devices providing a mechanism for users to access the system from nearly anywhere and nearly anytime.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the work management system and method, with its ability to distribute schedule information to a plurality wireless devices via well known push technologies/methods such as e-mail and pagers as well as its ability to interactively schedule a mobile/remote workforce wirelessly as taught by Bernasconi would have benefited from enabling users to interact with the system via any of a plurality of well known equivalent wireless devices including mobile telephones in view of the teachings of official notice; the

resultant system/method producing what one would expect the ability for users to use any wireless browser enabled device to access and/or interact with the scheduling/work management system.

Further it is noted that while Bernasconi does not does not expressly recite all of the common and well known forms that wireless devices can take, specifically that the mobile/wireless device/terminal is limited to a mobile telephone these differences are only found in the non-functional descriptive material and are not functionally involved in the steps recited nor do they alter the recited structural elements. The recited method steps would be performed the same regardless of the specific type (brand, size, telephone vs. personal digital assistant vs. pager, etc.) of wireless device used to access/interact with the scheduling system. Further, the structural elements remain the same regardless of the specific type of wireless device used to access/interact with the scheduling system. Thus, this descriptive material will not distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability, *see In re Gulack*, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994); MPEP 2106.

While Bernasconi teaches that the work management system/method enables users to view/review unfilled job openings and execute urgent-shift making routine (e.g. manually dispatching substitutes/temps to cover the shortage/vacancy) Bernasconi does not expressly teach that the system (processing unit) sends notification

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information to a person in charge or executing an urgent-shift making routine when the number of applications received does not reach the number of employees to be recruited as claimed.

ActiveStaffer teaches sending notification information to a person in charge when the number of staff (personnel, applicants for open/available/unscheduled shifts) does not reach the number of employees to be necessary to adequately cover the work schedule workload (e.g. there is a personnel/staff shortage/understaffing for which additional staff need to be recruited/allocated/dispatched), in an analogous art of employee scheduling for the purposes of for the purposes of enabling the person in charge to ensure staff/employee coverage (service, availability, etc.) remains at desired/target/required levels (Abstract; Last Paragraph, Page 1; Paragraph 1 and Last Paragraph, Page 2).

More generally ActiveStaffer teaches a commercially available work management system and method for generating, updating and distributing shift schedules (schedule plans) that receives and accommodates (takes into account, revises the schedule, etc.) a plurality of cancellation request/information (e.g. absences, no-shows), shift sharing and employee self-scheduling. The article further teaches that the ActiveStaffer system/method alerts select personnel of staffing shortages/deficits as well as identified patterns of absences. ActiveStaffer further teaches that the work management system/method enables users (employees) to access the system via kiosks, workstations or the Internet.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the work management system and method as taught by Bernasconi with its ability to enable users to view/review unfilled job openings and execute urgent-shift making routine (e.g. manually dispatching substitutes/temps to cover the shortage/vacancy) would have benefited from sending notification information to a person in charge thereby enabling/prompting the person or the system to execute an urgent-shift making routine (i.e. take steps, such as hiring temporary workers or calling in additional staff, to address the employee/coverage shortage, when the number of employees (applications, responses, scheduled workers) is less than desired/required in view of the teachings of ActiveStaffer; the resultant system enabling the person in charge to ensure staff/employee coverage (service, availability, etc.) remains at desired/target/required levels (ActiveStaffer: Abstract; Last Paragraph, Page 1).

7. Claims 38-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lesaint et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,578,005.

Regarding Claim 38 Lesaint et al. teach a system and method for scheduling (allocating, assigning, dispatching, etc.) a plurality of employees (staff, personnel, "service operatives", etc.) wherein the distributed/mobile workforce interact with the work management system/method via portable devices ("handheld"; Figure 1, Elements H1-H3) to interact (view, edit, update, respond, etc.) to a periodically updated work shift schedule (Abstract; Column 2, Lines 60-68; Column 3, Lines 1-49; Figures 3-4 and 12-14).

More specifically Lesaint et al. teach a work management apparatus for generating a shift schedule (table, matrix, workshift, roster, grid, calendar, etc.) comprising:

- memory (file, database, etc.; Figure 2, Element 24; Figure 3, Element 32) that stores employee and management information (employee/management information file; Column 3, Line 1; Column 5, Lines 57-64);

- a shift generation subsystem that generates a temporary (initial, provisional, original, current, etc.) shift schedule (table) in which scheduled employee work times are temporarily (initially, provisionally, etc.) set based on the employee and management information (Column 3, Lines 15-18 and 30-44; Column 5, Lines 12-18; Column 8, Lines 13-17; Column 11, Lines 3-9; Figure 3, Elements 30 and 31);

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- a sending subsystem (temporary shift table sending unit) that sends the temporary shift schedule (table, schedule, task assignments) to a plurality of portable terminals over a network (Column 6, Lines 51-68; Column 7, Lines 15-40; Figures 1-2);
- a reception unit (response information reception unit) that receives, over the network, temporary work schedule/shift response information (absences, task/job completion, sent from the plurality of portable terminals (Column 5, Lines 12-33; Column 7, Lines 15-40; Column 8, Lines 12-18; Column 9, Lines 28-44; Figures 1 and 3);
- a generation unit that generates a settled (final, complete, agreed to, current, etc.) shift schedule (workshift, schedule, task assignment, etc.) based on the employee response information (e.g. schedules an employee to fill-in/substitute for another who is absent, running behind schedule or the like; Column 8, Lines 12-18; Column 9, Lines 28-44; "allocations processor 47"; Column 11, Lines 23-29; Column 24, Lines 43-47);
- a sending unit (message sending unit; Figure 4, Element 48) that automatically sends (distributes, alerts, provides, etc.) the settled shift schedule (task assignment) to the plurality of portable terminals over the network (Column 6, 51-65; Column 11, Lines 23-29; Column 9, Lines 28-44; Column 31, Lines 24-48; Figure 1, Elements N, X and C).

While Lesaint et al. teaches a system and method for enabling users to interact with the system (server) via a plurality of wireless handheld devices (Figure 1, Elements H1-H3; Column 7, Lines 34-41; wherein Figure 1 depicts the handheld devices as being greatly similar to mobile telephones; note the antenna on the top of the device as well

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as the devices slightly curved form) Lesaint et al. does not expressly teach that the wireless devices are *mobile telephones* as now claimed.

Official notice is taken that utilizing mobile telephones to access remote systems and/or to enable mobile telephones with Internet browsers, so as to enable users to access one or more systems is old and very well known such wireless devices providing a mechanism for users to access the system from nearly anywhere and nearly anytime.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the work management system and method as taught by Lesaint et al. would have benefited from enabling users to interact with the system via any of a plurality of well known equivalent wireless devices including mobile telephones in view of the teachings of official notice; the resultant system/method producing what one would expect the ability for users to use any wireless handheld device to access and/or interact with the scheduling/work management system.

Further it is noted that while Lesaint et al. does not does not expressly recite all of the common and well known forms that wireless handheld devices can take, specifically that the mobile/wireless device/terminal is limited to a mobile telephone, these differences are only found in the non-functional descriptive material and are not functionally involved in the steps recited nor do they alter the recited structural elements. The recited method steps would be performed the same regardless of the

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specific type (brand, size, telephone vs. personal digital assistant vs. pager, etc.) of wireless device used to access/interact with the scheduling system. Further, the structural elements remain the same regardless of the specific type of wireless device used to access/interact with the scheduling system. Thus, this descriptive material will not distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability, see *In re Gulack*, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994); MPEP 2106.

Regarding Claim 39 Lesaint et al. teach a work management system/method further comprising:

- a generating unit (scheduling means) that generates a temporary shift schedule (table, work schedule, etc.) and adds recruiting information (task description, location, skills, time, etc.) for recruiting (assigning, allocating, identifying, etc.) a required number of employees to fill the shortage when there is a shortage (absence, unavailability, etc.) of employees (staff, personnel, workers, etc.; Column 2, Lines 65-68; Column 5, Lines 12-33 and 51-56; Column 7, Lines 48-65; Column 9, Lines 28-44);
- a sending unit (temporary shift table sending unit) that sends the temporary (provisional, initial, etc.) shift schedule and added recruiting information to portable terminals that are specified (identified, represent) as urgent (vital, imperative, critical, short-term, etc.) recruiting destinations (e.g. employees that match the necessary profile – availability, skills, location, etc. to perform the urgent tasks/requests; “real-time”

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scheduling of urgent tasks; Column 5, Lines 12-33 and 51-56; Column 9, Lines 28-44; Figure 1, Elements C, N and X);

- a generation unit (scheduling means, allocation processor, scheduler, etc.) that generates a settled (final, updated, etc.) shift schedule in which applying (available employees, employees requesting/adding tasks/jobs) employees are assigned (allocated, dispatched, etc.) to fill vacancies/shortages (tasks, assignments, jobs, etc.) in response to the response information/application (Column 5, Lines 12-33 and 51-56; Column 8, Lines 12-18; Column 9, Lines 28-44; Column 11, Lines 23-28; Figure 3, Elements 30-31; Figure 4, Element 47).

Regarding Claim 40 Lesaint et al. teach a work management system/method further comprising:

- a reception subsystem (cancellation information reception unit) that receives work schedule (shift) cancellation information/request, over the network, from arbitrary portable terminals (Column 11, Lines 66-68; Column 12, Lines 1-11; Column 25, Lines 21-33; Column 26, Lines 16-55);

- a generation subsystem (recruiting information generation unit) that generates recruiting information (required tasks/activities, location, skills, etc.) in response to the received work schedule cancellation information/request (i.e. when cancellation requests are received; Column 11, Lines 66-68; Column 12, Lines 1-11; Column 25, Lines 21-33; Column 26, Lines 16-55; Column 27, Lines 55-68; Column 28, Lines 1-9);

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- a sending subsystem (recruiting information sending unit, message sending unit; Figure 4, Element 48) that sends, over the network, recruiting information to the portable terminals that are specified (identified) as urgent (vital, imperative, critical, short-term, etc.) recruiting destinations (Column 31, Lines 24-48; Figure 1, Elements C, N, X);

- a reception subsystem (application information reception unit) that receives, over the network, application (response) information from arbitrary portable terminals in response to the sent recruiting information ("although a high priority task may be scheduled for one specified technician initially, another technician who is suitably positioned and skilled to perform the task may be allocated that task if he calls in first, if to do so produces a net benefit to the schedules. The original schedule for the second technician is then suspended, and each task in that schedule will become unscheduled until a technician suited to the task calls in. This may be the first technician, if his technical skills and geographical location are suitable, and if he calls in before the task is allocated elsewhere.", Column 5 Lines 18-28; Column 31, Lines 24-48); and

- wherein the generation subsystem (shift table/schedule unit, schedule generation means, schedule modifier) updates the settled shift schedule in accordance with the application (response, request) information received (Column 5 Lines 18-28; Column 9, Lines 28-44; Column 31, Lines 24-48); and

- the sending subsystem (shift table/schedule sending unit) sends the updated settled shift schedule to the portable terminal that sent the application information

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(message sending unit; Column 5, Lines 18-33; Column 31, Lines 24-48; Figure 4, Element 48).

Regarding Claim 41 Lesaint et al. teach a work management system/method further comprising:

- a display subsystem (unit) that displays a screen (graphical user interface, dialog box, window, etc.) for maintaining employee and management information (Column 5, Lines 57-64; Column 7, Lines 30-40; Figure 2, Element 23);
- a input subsystem that acquires information from the display subsystem (Column 2, Lines 60-64; Column 5, Lines 57-64; Column 7, Lines 30-40; Figure 2, Element 21); and
- memory that registers/updates (stores) employee and work management information acquired from the display/input subsystems (Column 3, Line 1; Column 5, Lines 57-64; Column 7, Lines 30-40; Figure 2, Element 24).

Regarding Claim 42 Lesaint et al. teach a work management method for using a management apparatus comprising:

- generating a temporary shift schedule (table, work shift, etc.) in which work schedules of employees are temporarily set based on employee and management information (Abstract; Column 2, Lines 65-68; Column 3, Lines 15-40;);
- sending, over the network, the temporary work/shift schedule (table) to each portable terminal (Column 5, Lines 12-56; Column 9, Lines 28-44;

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- receiving, over the network, temporary shift schedule response information for each of the portable terminals (Column 5, Lines 12-56; Column 9, Lines 28-44; Column 25, Lines 21-40; Figures 12-14);

- generating a settled (final, agreed to, completed, updated, etc.) shift schedule (table) in accordance with the received response information (Column 3, Lines 2-49; Column 24, Lines 43-48; Column 31, Lines 24-68);

- sending, over the network, the settled shift schedule to each portable terminal (Column 24, Lines 43-48; Column 31, Lines 24-68; Figures 12-14).

Regarding Claim 43 Lesaint et al. teach a work management method further comprising:

- generating a temporary shift schedule (table) and adding recruiting information for recruiting a required number of employees to fill a shortage wherein there is a shortage of employees (breaks, absences, urgent requests, etc.; Column 12, Lines 1-11; Column 25, Lines 21-40; Column 26, Lines 16-56);

- sending the temporary shift table and additional recruiting information to portable terminals that are specified/identified as urgent recruiting destinations (e.g. available employees/staff, staff requesting tasks/assignment; Column 9, Lines 29-44; Column 28, Lines 33-50; Column 31, Lines 24-60); and

- generating a settled shift schedule (table) in which applying (requesting) employees are assigned to fill vacancies/shortages (allocation processor; Column 4,

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Lines 63-68; Column 11, Lines 23-29; Column 24, Lines 43-48; Column 31, Lines 24-60; Figure 4, Element 47).

Regarding Claim 44 Lesaint et al. teach a work management method further comprising:

- receiving, over the network, work schedule/shift cancellation (absence) information/request from an arbitrary portable terminal (break, absence, etc.; Column 11, Lines 66-68; Column 12, Lines 1-11; Column 25, Lines 21-40; Column 26, Lines 1-55);
- generating recruiting information in response to the received work schedule/shift cancellation information/request (Column 11, Lines 66-68; Column 12, Lines 1-11; Column 25, Lines 21-40; Column 26, Lines 1-55);
- sending the recruiting information to the portable terminals that are specified/identified as urgent recruiting destinations (Column 11, Lines 66-68; Column 12, Lines 1-11; Column 25, Lines 21-40; Column 26, Lines 1-55);
- receiving application information from an arbitrary portable terminal in response to the recruiting information (Column 11, Lines 66-68; Column 12, Lines 1-11; Column 25, Lines 21-40; Column 26, Lines 1-55); and
- updating the settled shift schedule (table) according to the received application information (Column 11, Lines 66-68; Column 12, Lines 1-11; Column 25, Lines 21-40; Column 26, Lines 1-55); and

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- sending the updated settled shift schedule to the portable terminal that sent the application information (Column 5, Lines 11-56; Column 11, Lines 66-68; Column 12, Lines 1-11; Column 25, Lines 21-40; Column 26, Lines 1-55).

Regarding Claim 45 Lesaint et al. teach a computer-readable medium storing a program for controlling a computer to function as a work management system/method comprising:

- memory that stores employee and management information (Column 3, Line 1; Column 7, Lines 31-47; Column 11, Lines 58-65; Figure 2, Element 24; Figure 3, Element 32);

- a generation subsystem (routine, unit, pre-scheduler, etc.) that generates a temporary (provisional, initial, etc.) shift schedule (table) in which scheduled employee work times are temporarily set based on employee and management information Column 2, Lines 65-68; Column 3, Lines 35-49; Column 12, Lines 12-14; Figure 3, Elements 30-31);

- a sending subsystem (message generating unit; Figure 4, Element 48) that sends, over the network, the temporary shift schedule (work assignments, tasks, etc.) to a plurality of portable terminals (Column 31, Lines 24-38; Figure 1, Elements C, N, X);

- a reception subsystem that receives, over the network, response information from the plurality of portable terminals (Column 25, Lines 21-33);

- a generation subsystem (updating/modifying means, modifier, optimizer; Figure 3) that generates a settled work/shift schedule in accordance to the received response information (Column 3, Lines 2-28; Column 31, Lines 24-38) ; and
- a sending subsystem that automatically sends, over the network, the settled shift schedule to the plurality of portable terminals (Column 24, Lines 43-48; Column 31, Lines 24-38).

While Lesaint et al. teaches a system and method for enabling users to interact with the system (server) via a plurality of wireless handheld devices (Figure 1, Elements H1-H3; Column 7, Lines 34-41; wherein Figure 1 depicts the handheld devices as being greatly similar to mobile telephones; note the antenna on the top of the device as well as the devices slightly curved form) Lesaint et al. does not expressly teach that the wireless devices are *mobile telephones* as now claimed.

Official notice is taken that utilizing mobile telephones to access remote systems and/or to enable mobile telephones with Internet browsers, so as to enable users to access one or more systems is old and very well known such wireless devices providing a mechanism for users to access the system from nearly anywhere and nearly anytime.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention that the work management system and method as taught by Lesaint et al. would have benefited from enabling users to interact with the system via any of a plurality of well

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known equivalent wireless devices including mobile telephones in view of the teachings of official notice; the resultant system/method producing what one would expect the ability for users to use any wireless handheld device to access and/or interact with the scheduling/work management system nearly anytime/anywhere.

Further it is noted that while Lesaint et al. does not does not expressly recite all of the common and well known forms that wireless handheld devices can take, specifically that the mobile/wireless device/terminal is limited to a mobile telephone, these differences are only found in the non-functional descriptive material and are not functionally involved in the steps recited nor do they alter the recited structural elements. The recited method steps would be performed the same regardless of the specific type (brand, size, telephone vs. personal digital assistant vs. pager, etc.) of wireless device used to access/interact with the scheduling system. Further, the structural elements remain the same regardless of the specific type of wireless device used to access/interact with the scheduling system. Thus, this descriptive material will not distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability, see *In re Gulack*, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994); MPEP 2106.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott L. Jarrett whose telephone number is (571) 272-7033. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hafiz Tariq can be reached on (571) 272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



SJ

6/8/2006



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